

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	No. CV-F-05-258 REC/DLB
	)	
	)	ORDER DENYING RESPONDENT'S
Petitioner,	)	MOTION FOR STAY AND VACATING
	)	ORAL ARGUMENT NOTICED FOR
vs.	)	OCTOBER 3, 2005
	)	
JEAN ANNETTE LIASCOS,	)	
	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	
	)	

Respondent was ordered to appear on August 22, 2005 and show cause why she should not be held in civil contempt for her failure to comply with the Summons Enforcement Order. Respondent did not appear on August 22 and did not file any response to the Order to Show Cause. The Order to Show Cause re Contempt specifically provided:

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that on or before Monday, August 8, 2005 the respondents shall file and serve a written response to the 'Petition Re: Civil Contempt of Orders filed May 23-25, 2005.' Only those issues brought into controversy by the responsive papers and supported by declaration will be considered

1 at the hearing on this Order, and any  
2 uncontested allegation in the Petition Re:  
Civil Contempt will be considered admitted.

3 Respondents are hereby notified that a  
4 failure to comply with this Order will  
subject respondents to possible further  
5 sanctions for contempt of Court.

6 The court orally ruled on August 22 that respondent is in  
7 contempt of court and directed the United States to lodge a  
8 proposed Order. The United States lodged the proposed Order on  
August 30, 2005.

9 On August 31, 2005, respondent filed a motion for stay,  
10 noticing the motion for hearing on October 3, 2005. In support  
11 of the motion for stay is filed respondent's declaration in which  
12 it is averred:

13 2. On or about October 1, 2004, Internal  
14 Revenue Agent Fred Chynoweth issued and  
15 served IRS Summons to all defendants [sic]  
and appellants seeking testimony and  
16 production of certain books, records and  
documents, which erroneously believed [sic] was  
17 in the possession of defendants [sic] and  
appellants for the years 1998 through 2002.

18 3. Defendants and Appellants refused for  
19 cause, without dishonor the IRS request for  
testimony and informed Fred Chynoweth that  
20 the records and documents requested were not  
in the control or possession of defendants  
21 [sic].

22 4. Defendants [sic] and Appellants asserted  
the Fifth Amendment right and have refused  
23 for cause, without dishonor all attempts by  
Fred Chynoweth to compel testimony.

24 5. On May 23, 2005, the Hon. Robert E.  
25 Coyle, United States District Judge, signed  
an Order enforcing said summonses.

26 6. Defendants [sic] and appellants duly and

1           timely filed Notice of Appeal on June 3,  
2           2005.

3           6. On August 22, 2005, the said Judge Coyle  
4           conducted a show cause hearing on the Order  
5           enforcing said summonses. The court  
6           concluded that all defendants [sic] and  
7           appellants failed to appear at said hearing  
8           and were therefore held in contempt by the  
9           court. To date, no order has been filed on  
10          the contempt finding as to each defendant  
11          [sic] and appellant.

12          7. Good cause exists for the issuance of a  
13          stay of all proceedings in the court below  
14          because if the order of contempt issued below  
15          is not stayed by this Honorable Court, the  
16          issues raised in Defendants' [sic] and  
17          Appellants' appeal will be rendered moot.

18          As is discussed in the court's Order finding respondent to  
19          be in civil contempt and imposing coercive sanctions as a result  
20          of civil contempt, the fact that respondents filed an appeal to  
21          the Ninth Circuit of the Summons Enforcement Order does not  
22          excuse the failure to comply with the Summons Enforcement Orders  
23          in the absence of a stay pending appeal. These legal principles  
24          and case law supporting them were all set forth in the United  
25          States' petition for the order to show cause why respondent  
26          should not be found in civil contempt. And as noted, the Order  
27          to Show Cause re Civil Contempt specifically directed respondent  
28          to file any opposition to the Order to Show Cause re Civil  
29          Contempt by a date certain. Respondent filed nothing and did not  
30          appear at the August 22 hearing.

31          Respondent is seeking a stay pending appeal of both the  
32          Summons Enforcement Orders and the oral order issued on August  
33          22, 2005 finding respondent in civil contempt.

1 The Notice of Appeal to the Ninth Circuit from the Summons  
2 Enforcement Order states that the issues for appeal are:

3 1) Whether the District Court had  
4 jurisdiction to issue the Order dated May 23,  
2005, the entire record considered.

5 2) Whether the enforcement of the summons is  
6 a violation of the Respondent/Appellants 5<sup>th</sup>  
amendment privilege.

7 3) Whether the court can force the Authorized  
8 Agent to testify on behalf of the respondent,  
since the respondent is an artificial entity.

9 In deciding whether to issue a stay of the Summons  
10 Enforcement Orders pending appeal, the court considers the  
11 following factors:

12 (1) whether the applicant has made a strong  
13 showing that he is likely to succeed on the  
14 merits; (2) whether the applicant will be  
15 irreparably injured absent a stay; (3)  
16 whether the issuance of the stay will  
substantially injure other parties interested  
in the proceeding; and (4) where the public  
interest lies.

United States v. Fitzgerald, 884 F.Supp. 376, 377 (D.Idaho 1995).

17 In the instant motion for stay, respondent has made no  
18 showing, much less a strong showing, of likelihood of success on  
19 the merits of the issues raised in the notice of appeal. In  
20 fact, respondent does not discuss the merits of the issues at  
21 all, merely relying on the assertion that the appeal will be  
22 rendered moot if the stay is not issued. Furthermore, none of  
23 the issues asserted in the notice of appeal have arguable merit.  
24 This court has jurisdiction pursuant to 26 U.S.C. §§ 7402(a) and  
25 7604 to issue the summons enforcement orders. Respondent's  
26

1 claim that enforcement of the IRS summonses will violate her  
2 rights under the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination  
3 cannot be raised on appeal because respondent has not appeared  
4 before the IRS in compliance with the summons and then raised the  
5 privilege with respect to the questions asked or documents  
6 sought. See See United States v. Rendahl, 746 F.2d 553, 555  
7 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1984) (respondent cannot invoke privilege in appeal of  
8 summons enforcement order, but must wait until he appears before  
9 the IRS and raises the privilege with respect to questions asked  
10 or documents sought). Respondent's contention that respondent  
11 is an "artificial entity" of which respondent is the "Authorized  
12 Agent" who cannot be compelled to testify against the "artificial  
13 entity" is unsupported by any legal authority of which this court  
14 is aware.

15       There is no showing that respondent will be irreparably  
16 injured if a stay pending the appeal of the Summons Enforcement  
17 Order is denied. The Summons Enforcement Order provided that the  
18 validity of any claim of the Fifth Amendment privilege to  
19 questions asked or documents sought would be determined by the  
20 Magistrate Judge during the summons enforcement hearing. Once  
21 those rulings were made, respondent can appeal those rulings to  
22 the district court and from there to the Ninth Circuit.

23       Furthermore, the petitioner will be substantially injured by  
24 delay in enforcement of the IRS summons as will the public  
25 interest in the timely and efficiently collection of taxes and  
26 the resolution of litigation involving enforcement of the federal

1 tax laws.

2       The court also denies respondent's motion for stay pending  
3 appeal to the extent that the motion is directed to the oral  
4 order finding respondents in contempt made from the bench on  
5 August 22, 2005 and the written Order finding respondent to be in  
6 contempt and imposing coercive sanctions. While an order for  
7 contempt is final and appealable, see United States v. Hallahan,  
8 768 F.2d 754, 755 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1985), the court looks to the same  
9 factors in determining whether or not to issue a stay of a  
10 contempt order as described above. These factors do not weigh in  
11 favor of a stay of any contempt order pending appeal. As noted,  
12 respondent's challenges to the legality of the Summons  
13 Enforcement Order are without merit at this juncture. While  
14 respondent will be injured by the contempt orders because  
15 respondent will be incarcerated and will be required to pay a  
16 compensatory fine, respondent can purge the contempt by complying  
17 with the Summons Enforcement Order and by paying the fine. In  
18 addition, upon compliance with the Summons Enforcement Order and  
19 valid claims of the Fifth Amendment privilege, respondent will be  
20 able to appeal any rulings concerning the privilege and can seek  
21 a stay pending appeal at that time. Therefore, the potential  
22 injury because of the contempt order is not irreparable.  
23 Finally, as stated above, the petitioner will be substantially  
24 injured by delay in enforcement of the IRS summons as will the  
25 public interest in the timely and efficiently collection of taxes  
26 and the resolution of litigation involving enforcement of the

1 federal tax laws.

2 Respondent has noticed the motion for stay pending appeal  
3 for hearing on October 3, 2005. Because respondent has not  
4 shown that respondent is entitled to a stay, the motions to stay  
5 is denied without oral argument. Furthermore, respondent was  
6 given the opportunity to file any responses or oppositions to the  
7 Order to Show Cause re Civil Contempt. Respondent failed to do  
8 so either in a pleading filed with the court or orally at the  
9 hearing on August 22, 2005.

10 ACCORDINGLY:

11 1. Respondent's motion for stay pending appeal is denied.

12 2. Oral argument set for October 3, 2005 is vacated.

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 Dated: September 6, 2005  
668554

/s/ Robert E. Coyle  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE